



SHARON DELL – Vale 20 December 2021

A happy gathering of friends and well-wishers attended the event to celebrate the farewell to Sharon Dell, Hocken Librarian since 2008. Under difficult Covid restrictions the farewell gathering of about 100 met in the early evening of Monday 20 December. The gathering showed the great affection and respect held for Sharon who had been ‘brought’ to Dunedin by an escort of colleagues from her former employment at Whanganui Museum. She was recognised there as a taonga or treasure, and would soon after arrival in

Dunedin be realised in a similar way. She remained at the Hocken 13 and a half years. Appropriate and beautiful waiata from Hocken staff punctuated the presentations.



And what years they have been, full of adventure and change. Judith Holloway commented in her speech about the immediate impact that Sharon had on the staff with “warmth, positivity, approachability and ability” – even in her first informal meeting.

During Sharon’s tenure the challenges of inadequate funding, pressure on space, and crises of direction were addressed. During Sharon’s tenure, more staff (now 30 EFTS) were been appointed. Directions of University and community outreach, including a “meaningful, respectful relationship with tangata whenua” have developed.

Clare de Lore, (Lady McKinnon), a journalist writing for the New Zealand *Listener*, in late April 2017 drafted an insightful article on Sharon. She wrote under the heading ‘Our home was always full of books’: The woman in charge of the Hocken Collections derives enormous pleasure from the treasures in her professional care – and those in her own home. And there we have a close pointer to the central motive for Sharon’s career, ending with the Hocken.

It seemed from reading Clare de Lore's exposé that Sharon was predisposed from birth to be an archivist or librarian. Her father Dick Dell was Director of the Dominion Museum, a place which she described as "like a second home" and her mother, Dame Miriam Dell, a teacher and advocate of women's rights. Childhood to university, the father's study provided the nest for Sharon and her sisters. Sharon was deeply immersed in archive collections before arriving in Dunedin being more than 20 years at the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington, followed by 12 years at Whanganui Regional Museum.

Her background and skills made her involvement with manuscripts more intense. She gained an abiding interest in the preservation of precious materials "You have to look after things so that they last." For her, books and the research they provide are more than the meat and bones of her archive work – they join the archival and interest objects with connection to their authors, painters, sculptors and ceramicists.

De Lore asked Sharon to expand on the utilisation of the Hocken Collections to academics and those who access the collections. She responded with "Democratising of research" part of which was the digitising of a portion of the Samuel Marsden archives, dealing with letters and journals of the first missionaries to the Bay of Islands in the 1808 - 1820s. Well-known collections include the material from Colin McCahon from which the 1948 painting *The Virgin and Child Compared* is Sharon's favourite.

Her home reflects her profession and her interests with a multitude of books, tea cosies, jugs and textiles. For her the past is the present. Her legacy for the Hocken has been an enduring passion, a sense for what is right, whether it be adequate funding and resources, more space, or a clearer understanding of what the Hocken and its staff are, and their important functions in this community. Her office mantra "People activate collections" directed her mahi.

Sharon Dell – two thoughts for you – He toka tū moana – a stalwart, a rock standing steadfast in the ocean;

Tohaina ō painga ki te ao, - you share your gifts with the world

There is much, much more which could and should be written about the splendid career of ex-Hocken Librarian Sharon Dell but time and space dictate brevity. We wish you well, Sharon. George Davis with assistance from Judith Holloway Team Leader,

Researcher Services and Rauhina Scott-Fyfe, Hocken Collections Assistant.



Message from the Chair

Greetings to you, our Hocken Collections and Library Friends members. I hope you will enjoy the content of our *Flotsam and Jetsam*. Welcome to our new editor Dr George Davis. Your committee has met by Zoom recently and we do hope to be able to meet in person sometime soon.

We appreciate your support and thank you to those people who have paid their subscription and joined as Life Members. A few subscriptions are outstanding now after six months. Do phone our Treasurer Carol Melville at 021 617 466 if you are unsure. You are able to pay via online banking through the website hockenfriends.org.nz

If you are a Life Member do please consider a donation to our Friends of the Hocken Collections Award Fundraiser. Our Award has resulted in two excellent outcomes including a book by Laurence Fearnley and Paul Hersey, while Dr Jonathan West will be our speaker on 2 September this year, after two cancellations due to COVID-19. Jonathan has a book coming too. The Award has given them time and resources to use the Hocken for their research and we all benefit through the result of their endeavours and the publicity.

Dr Claire Matthewson and the Awards Sub-Committee are aiming to open applications for the Friends' third award round in July this year. Do encourage and support our activity.

Stay safe Louise Croot

usual advertising for this important event. More will appear in the May-June issue of *F&J*.

Office Bearers for 2021-2022

President - Louise Croot
 Immediate Past President – Donald Phillipps
 Vice-President – Lorraine Isaacs,
 Hon. Secretary – Mark Hughes
 Hon, Treasurer Carol Melville,
 Committee - Tom Brooking, Claire Matthewson
 Sarah Gallagher, George Davis
 Hocken Librarian representative, Anna Blackman, for
 attendance and liaison role , Lynn Benson (Acting
 Hocken Librarian).

What's happening?

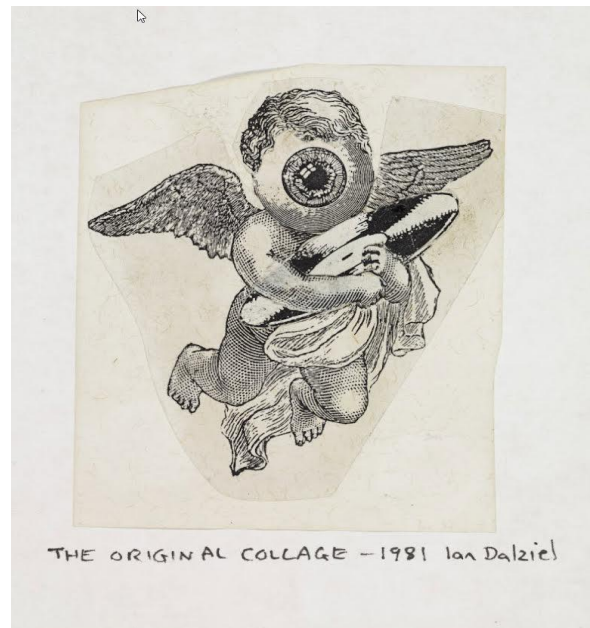
18 th May	Vice Chancellor – Professor David Murdoch At this stage, the booking is in his official diary
20 th July	?
2 nd September (Friday) – Deed of Trust anniversary	Jonathan West – FOHCs Award recipient 'Winsome to Worldly Wanaka: Lake, Land & People' Jonathan has a contract with OUP to publish the book on the southern lakes by 2024
16 th November	AGM @5.30pm <u>then</u> Talk Series @ 6.15pm ?

STOP PRESS (NZHL Press – Dunedin)

The Art World of the Hocken – Reliable reports have just arrived that the *Kaleidoscope World: 40 Years of Flying Nun* exhibition in the Picture Gallery of the Hocken Library is in its last days.

Originally planned to finish on 19 March 2022, it is hoped that the exhibition will stay open to the end of May, or longer, if permissions allow. Intending viewers from Home and Abroad are urged to indicate their interest very soon to avoid the disappointment from missing this marvellous display of "Dunediniana."

While some local people have seen the exhibition it is hoped that the net will go further and others who missed because of the Red Omicron setting stopped their chances of entry. Copyright restrictions and current Omicron rules allow only a fragment of the



Ian Dalziel, (b.1957), *The Original Collage*, 1991, collage and ink on paper, 135 x 135mm, Hocken Collections Uare Taoka o Hākena, University of Otago, V2015.14.1. Given by Warwick Eade, 2015. Part of the artwork Commissioned for Flying Nun Records, on the occasion of their 10th anniversary. Permission to use kindly granted by Ian Dalziel and Flying Nun Records.

Hocken Staff As there has been considerable change in Hocken staff over the past two years the editor decided that it would be considerate to let *F&J* readers know who the present staff are.



Katherine Milburn was appointed Liaison Librarian and Curator of the Ephemera Collection at the Hocken Collections in 2011. A graduate in Anthropology at the University of Otago and in Library and Information Studies at Victoria University of Wellington, she has worked at the Hocken Collections since 1989.

The Friends of the Hocken Collections Award 2023

To mark the occasion of its 25th anniversary in 2016, the Friends of the Hocken Collections offered an award of NZ\$10,000 to support a research project on some aspect of the historical development of culture and society in Aotearoa/New Zealand, primarily using the resources of the Hocken Collections. Joint winners of the anniversary Award were Laurence Fearnley and Paul Hersey. *To the Mountains: A Collection of NZ Alpine Writing* was the very pleasing result. Jonathan West won the subsequent Award for work (carried out in 2020-21) towards his proposed publication *Mirrors on the Land; Histories of New Zealand's Lakes*.

The two Award competitions have attracted a wide range of applications for several eminently fundable projects in which the Hocken Collections' resources were of vital or key importance. The Friends' executive committee resolved in principle, therefore, to continue to offer The Friends of the Hocken Collections Award in 2023 with unchanged criteria.

The intended outcomes of the Award are creatively open for the project applicants to develop and propose. Both collaborative and singular applications are welcome, and salient aspects such as medium, genre, scope, and purpose are prescription-free.

The application Closing Date for an award to be held in the calendar year 2023 is 15 **October 2022**. (Application documentation will be available on the Friends of the Hocken Collections website – <https://hockenfriends.org.nz/> – from 1 July. Applicants will be advised of the competition result by **30 November 2022**.)

COVID-19 Red Alert Settings at Hocken

Hocken is **not** currently open to the public. We are open to University of Otago staff and students **only**. This includes the Gallery, foyer and Research Lounge.

This is a **temporary** measure implemented by the University of Otago to help us manage the anticipated impact of COVID-19 Omicron on staffing.

Our distance **reference services** continue to be available to **everyone** as an alternative to on-site access.

- Please email your **research enquiry** to reference.hocken@otago.ac.nz or phone 03 479-8879.
- For **general assistance**, please email hocken@otago.ac.nz or phone 03 479 8868.
- Visit otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/ to **search our catalogues** [Hākena](#) and [Library Search | Ketu](#), and to read our **research guides**.
- Some of our **images are online** at Hocken Snapshot <https://hocken.recollect.co.nz/>
- Google @DocHocken for **news and updates** on Facebook and Twitter.
-

We apologise for this restriction on access and hope to be open to all again soon. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Kia kaha, kia manawanui, kia tūpato, kia atawhai
tētahi ki tētahi.
*Be strong in body and spirit, be careful and be
kind to each other.*

FOHC MEMBERSHIP

Subscriptions: Individual \$25 per annum
Joint \$30 per annum
Life Member \$250
Joint Life Member \$300

Friends are reminded that subscriptions are due, and to note that cheques can no longer be accepted.
Online payment: Westpac 030903 0393175 000 –
"Subscriptions" in Particulars field, surname/initials in
Code/Reference fields.

*Prepared by George Davis for the Friends of the
Hocken Collections P.O.Box 6336, Dunedin North 9059
georgedavisnzer@gmail.com*